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worn operas scarcely compensate us for the great orchestral works which they displace.

THE Handel Festival progresses in the most satisfactory manner. The alterations made in the corner galleries were completed and tested on Good Friday with great success. Many hundreds of excellent additional seats have by this means been provided on the floor of the Centre Transept. It has been decided by the directors that the Shakspeare House shall be removed, and it is intended to raise the seats near the garden front of the Great Transept, which will doubtless command for them a ready sale. The Tickets for the Great Rehearsal have also been issued, and they are being sold very rapidly.

#### SACRED HARMONIC SOCIETY.

THE production of Mr. Costa's Oratorio, *Naaman*, at Exeter Hall, gave the members of the society, over which the composer has so ably presided for many years, a favourable opportunity for proving their appreciation of him by earnestly and vigorously working to give the utmost effect to his new work. We may at once state that the verdict of the Birmingham audience has been fully endorsed by the London public. A composition so conscientiously written is entitled to mature consideration; and when we state that the Sacred Harmonic Society has added one more to their stock of sacred works, we do so in the full conviction that successive representations of the Oratorio will strengthen the conviction of its merits. We have already freely expressed our opinion of the work on its first performance at Birmingham; and a second hearing of it has fully confirmed all that we then stated. It is not the out-pouring of that pure devotional feeling which, after years of intense yearning, selects the language of music for utterance to the world; but it is the composition of a well educated and accomplished artist, who writes to sacred words such music as he feels can be faithfully wedded to them; and whose intimate knowledge of the resources of the orchestra enables him to surround them with a charm which is sure to produce its effect upon an audience. It is certainly, in an artistic point of view, an advance upon *Eli*. Madame Rudersdorff, Miss Edmonds, Madame Sainton-Dolby, Mr. Sims Reeves, and Mr. Santley were the principal vocalists at Exeter Hall; and, although we missed the fresh voice and consummate finish of Madlle. Adeline Patti—who sang the part of *Adah* at Birmingham—the music was exceedingly well given throughout. The Oratorio has been since two or three times repeated; and is likely, we think, to be frequently given during the season.

#### MONDAY POPULAR CONCERTS.

WE have so often urged upon the directors of these concerts the desirability of giving an occasional hearing to some of the many pianists of eminence, resident and non-resident in the metropolis, that we were doubly pleased at the announcement of the "Schumann night" on the 15th ult., in the first place because it had the effect of severing the compact which seemed to have been formed between two artists who have hitherto almost exclusively occupied the instrument, and in the second place because it afforded an opportunity of paying a compliment to the widow of the composer, who is also one of the best pianists of the day. The programme contained the String Quartet in A minor (No. 1, Op. 41.) "Variations Symphoniques," "Fantasiestücke," (originally written for pianoforte and clarinet, but strangely enough played by Herr Joachim on the violin), the pianoforte Quartet in E flat, and two songs. The playing of Madame Schumann throughout the evening was instinct with that genius which makes itself felt in every note; and in the variations her manipulation was as perfect as any mere "passage player" could desire. The music of Schumann—so often spoken of and so little heard—was listened to with intense enjoyment by a crowded audience, and to those pioneers of progress who take the liberty of

judging for themselves, such a concert may speak more forcibly than all the "notices" for or against a man who is at least original enough to provoke controversy. Madame Schumann made her second appearance at these concerts on the following Monday, and performed Beethoven's Sonata in C (Op. 53), usually known as the "Waldstein Sonata."

AN interesting musical performance by the pupils of the London Society for teaching the blind to read, took place on the 27th of April, at the Hanover Square Rooms. Several part songs and choruses were sung in the most admirable manner; and piano-forte music was also executed with something more than mere manual dexterity. We have already had occasion to speak in the warmest manner of the indefatigable exertions of Mr. Edwin Barnes, the professional instructor of the musical department of this excellent society, and we congratulate the pupils upon having secured the services of a preceptor who not only throws his talents but his heart into the cause.

A CONCERT by the pupils of the tonic method of teaching singing took place at Exeter Hall on the 23rd ult., under the direction of Mr. W. S. Young, who announces himself as "the first conductor of the Tonic Sol-fa Association at the Crystal Palace."

A *matinée musicale* was given by Madame Eugène Oswald, on the 25th ult., at Messrs. Collard's rooms, when she performed a very good selection of pianoforte music, including Beethoven's "Sonata Appassionata," and Mendelssohn's Fantasia in F sharp minor. Madame Oswald has a very firm finger, and her style is unaffected and fluent. She was much and deservedly applauded, and is likely, we think, to become an established favourite as a player of the highest class of chamber music. She was assisted in the vocal department by Madame Oliviero and Mr. Renwick.

THE Hullah Choral Society gave a Concert on the 27th of April, at St. Martin's Hall, when Professor Bennett's "May Queen" was excellently performed, the principal vocalists being Madame Parepa, Miss Robertson, Miss Bradshaw, Mr. Cummings, and Mr. Patey. The second part was devoted to a miscellaneous selection, in which, in addition to some very good choral pieces, several solos were given, and Miss Fanny Howell performed, with much success, a Fantasia on the pianoforte.

THE "Canonbury Vocal Union," a society of amateurs, gave their last Public Rehearsal for the season on the 27th of April. The execution of the various pieces was most creditable, in some cases as near perfection as could be. The programme is worth noting:—Sanctus, (Bartniansky); Gloria in Excelsis, (Dr. Gauntlett); Blessing, glory! (Motett, for 2 choirs with quartett) J. S. Bach; Me ye have bereaved (C. Morales); In exitu Israel. Ps. cxiv., for 2 choirs (S. Wesley); Psalm xcii., for 2 choirs, with soli) Meyerbeer; Sweet honey-sucking Bees, madrigal (Wilbye); Around the May-pole, part-song (J. L. Hatton); Cynthia, thy song, madrigal (G. Croce); Dream, baby, dream, part-song (H. Smart); Harken to thy faithful swain, madrigal (C. Morales); Fire, fire! ballet (Morley); Down in a flow'ry vale, madrigal (Festa); Good Night, part-song (Dr. Gauntlett). The music was in all cases unaccompanied. The conductor was Mr. E. Prout, B.A.

On Monday, the 8th ult., Mr. H. S. May gave his annual concert at the Milton Hall, Camden Town. The programme consisted chiefly of songs, ballads, and duets. Mr. May also performed several pianoforte solos. The principal vocalists were Miss Fosbroke, Miss Paton; Messrs. Chaplin Henry, Buckland, Mathison, Baxter, Lee, and Wilton. Mr. Beresford and Mr. May accompanied on the pianoforte.

THE Albany Choral Society which has been established only a few months, performed some pieces in a very efficient manner, under the direction of Mr. Alfred J. Acres, the hon. conductor, at an entertainment given by

the Christchurch Young Men's Friendly Society, in the School-Room, Albany Street, Regent's Park, on Wednesday evening, the 26th of April. The society consists of a band of about sixty members.

The Holy Trinity Choral Association gave a very successful concert on Tuesday evening, the 16th ult., in the Parochial School-rooms, Hoxton. The soloists were Miss Fanny Poole, Miss Pottle, and Miss Rothwell, Mr. Burton, Mr. Knott, and Mr. Crome. The members of the choir (numbering about 60 voices) acquitted themselves very creditably under their able conductor, Mr. W. Robinson; Miss Cook and Mr. T. Robinson were the accompanists.

MR. G. J. HILLS, assisted by Miss Marion Ray, Miss Agnes Hills, and Master Hills, gave a successful lecture concert at the London Mechanics' Institution, on Wednesday, the 17th ult.

On Wednesday, the 26th of April, the Barbican Mutual Improvement Society gave its Annual Musical and Rhetorical Entertainment, at the Literary Institution, Aldersgate Street; Rev. Joseph Boyje in the chair. The elocutionary department was sustained with unabated interest, and the music included many very excellent pieces, among which may be cited the "Gloria," a peculiar chant by the conductor, and a part-song for three male voices, "The Old Elm Tree," by W. Jones. Mr. John Parry conducted.

MISS CLINTON (daughter of the late eminent Professor of the flute) gave her first concert on the 26th ult., at the Hanover Square Rooms, when she fully proved that her talents as a pianist had been carefully fostered, and that she has every right to hold a high position in the profession of which her father was so respected a member. She performed with steadiness and good musical feeling the pianoforte part in Mozart's Quintet in E flat; with Herr Joachim, Beethoven's Sonata in D, Op. 12, for pianoforte and violin and in two solos, in all of which she was received with the utmost favour. A duet for flute and clarinet, composed by the late Mr. Clinton, performed by Herr Oluff Svendsen and Mr. Lazarus, was a great feature in the programme, the refined playing of Mr. Lazarus charming everybody present. We cordially wish Miss Clinton every success in the career she has chosen; and have every reason to believe that she will not only support, but add to the reputation of the name she bears.

MR. MARSHALL HALL BELL (a pupil of Mr. W. H. Holmes) gave a concert at the Hanover Square Rooms, on the 25th of April, when he performed a selection of pianoforte music, so varied in style as to prove him capable of taking rank as a sound pianist. He was assisted in the vocal department by Miss Robertine Henderson, Mrs. Alfred Gilbert, and Mr. Wallace Wells. Mr. Ralph also played in admirable style a violin solo, composed by his master, M. Sainton.

MISS AGNES ZIMMERMANN gave a concert on the 13th ult., at the Hanover Square Rooms, which was extremely well attended. Although young in years, Miss Zimmermann comes before the public with so ripe a talent, and such consummate knowledge of the highest school of pianoforte playing, that we should do her an injustice by dismissing her as a "promising" artist. In every respect she is fully entitled to take rank as one of the sound and intellectual pianists of the day. Her reading of Beethoven's "Sonata Appassionata" was marked by an individuality more refreshing than any conventional interpretation of the work can ever be; and her mere nimbleness of finger amply shows that she can be equally ready in all styles of music. She also performed Bach's Sonata in A major for pianoforte and violin, with Herr Deichmann, Mendelssohn's Sonata in B flat, (Op. 45) for pianoforte and violoncello, with Signor Piatti, Schumann's Quintet for pianoforte, two violins, viola and violoncello, with Messrs. Deichmann, Weinar, Webb, and Piatti, besides some solo pieces of her own, in all of which she exhibited the most sterling qualities, both of

mechanism and true musical feeling. The vocalists were Madame Lemmens Sherrington, Miss Adelaide Cornelis, and Mr. Cummings; and Signor Randegger accompanied on the pianoforte.

MISS MADELINE SCHILLER gave the first of three pianoforte recitals at her residence, Prince's Square, Hyde Park, on the 28th of April. Her talents as an accomplished pianist, both of the classical and brilliant school, were successfully displayed in Beethoven's Sonata in C major, (Op. 53,) Mendelssohn's Capriccio in E, No. 2, and in Fantasias by Liszt and Thalberg. She also performed with Mr. Carrodus, Mozart's Sonata in A, No. 3, for pianoforte and violin. Mr. Carrodus gave the *Andante* from Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto with such artistic finish as to make us regret that he should not have selected a work, instead of a fragment, for the display of his powers. The vocalist was Miss Florence de Courcy, who was much applauded in Henry Smart's song, "Hark, the Bells are ringing."—On the 26th ult. Miss Schiller gave a concert at the Hanover Square Rooms, in which she was assisted by several eminent vocalists and instrumentalists.

MR. WALTER MACFARREN gave the first of three pianoforte recitals on the 6th ult., at the Hanover Square Rooms, when he once more successfully asserted his claim to be ranked as an exponent of the legitimate school of playing. The classical nature of his programme shows that a conscientious artist may now select the music according to his own predilections, with a firm reliance upon the educated taste of his hearers for its due appreciation; and Mr. Macfarren may fairly congratulate himself upon having both the will and the power to elevate the art at a time when such efforts are estimated at their real value. The selection contained Beethoven's Sonata quasi Fantasia, in E flat (No. 2, Op. 27), Schubert's Sonata in A minor, Op. 42, Bach's *Suites de Pieces* in D minor, (No. 2, "Suites Anglaises") Mendelssohn's Caprice in A minor, Op. 33, besides some pieces of his own, of the lighter school, which afforded an agreeable contrast. He also performed Mozart's Grand Sonata in D, for two pianofortes, with his pupil, Mr. G. E. Bainbridge. The whole of the recitals were listened to with the utmost interest; and Mr. Macfarren's performance was received with genuine demonstrations of approval.

AMONGST the refined musical entertainments of the metropolis few are more attractive than the "Mornings at the Pianoforte," given on Wednesdays by Mrs. John Macfarren, at the Egyptian Hall. Not only does she perform on each occasion a very excellent selection of pianoforte music, but the vocal portion of the programme is always admirably supported; and the gossip on music and musicians, by Mr. G. A. Macfarren, is just the sort of conversational lecture that might be expected from a man who thinks earnestly on his art, and can express his thoughts on paper.

A CENTRAL Choral Union for the Province of Canterbury has been formed, having for its object the direction and concentration of the various Diocesan and other Associations, that have, during the last few years, exercised so beneficial an influence on the Church music of the country. The Union was first suggested at a meeting held on the occasion of the Bristol Congress in October, 1864; and was finally constituted at a meeting held at the Chapter Room of St. Paul's Cathedral, on Thursday, May the 18th. The Archbishop of Canterbury has accepted the office of Patron; the Bishop of Salisbury, Official Precentor of the Province, that of President; the other Bishops of the Province being *ex-officio* Vice-Presidents. The Rev. H. L. Jenner (Canterbury Diocesan Association), and the Rev. C. Tower (Salisbury Diocesan Association), were appointed Secretaries.

WINCHESTER.—Mr. R. D. Newby, of the Southwell Collegiate Church Choir, has been appointed Lay Vicar in the Cathedral Choir.